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FORMAL OFFER MADE

Proposition to Sell Panama Canal Properties.

SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHORITIES

Commission's Estimate of \$40,000,000 Adopted.

THE PRESIDENT INFORMED

A formal proposition to sell the Panama canal properties to the United States government for \$40,000,000 was today submitted to the authorities here. It was made by Mr. Bouefve, representing the company, to Admiral Walker, as chairman of the isthmian canal commission. Mr. Bouefve acted under cable instructions received this morning from the Panama Canal Company officials at Paris. Admiral Walker brought the proposition to the knowledge of the Secretary of State and the President today, going directly to the State Department for that purpose.

A Long-Considered Plan.

The submission of this offer carries out a plan which has been under consideration for the last two weeks. The first step was taken when Mr. Huttin retired from the presidency of the Panama Company. This brought about an entire change in the management, the main feature of the change being that those in authority desired to make a definite offer of the Panama properties to this government. The proposition was made at a number of meetings at Paris with this end in view, but the one which brought about the final proposition was held yesterday. It has been the intention to make the offer through Mr. Edward Lamore, secretary general of the company, who is due to arrive at New York on the 10th inst. Tomorrow, but the meeting appears to have taken view that the offer should be made without waiting for the arrival of Mr. Lamore. The offer was made to the President and the Secretary of State, and received by him this morning. He went at once to the office of the isthmian canal commission, where he had the determination of the company.

The Notification.

In substance the notification delivered to Admiral Walker was as follows: "The Panama Canal Company declares itself ready to transfer to the government of the United States, on payment of \$40,000,000, its properties and concessions, estimated at that amount by the isthmian canal commission, in conformity with the terms and conditions of the estimates of said commission."

The Submission of the Matter to the President.

The submission of the matter to the President was in order to observe all due proprieties in the case, it being considered desirable that the chairman of the canal commission should be the one to communicate the offer to the Secretary of State and the President. Except to submit the proposition in the foregoing terms, the President has been receiving the offer from the Panama Canal Company. But it is understood that the desire of the Panama canal officials that a supplementary report shall be made by the commission, taking into consideration this latest offer.

The President Informed.

Admiral Walker called at the State Department at noon and communicated to Secretary Hay the offer which Mr. Bouefve had submitted in behalf of the canal company. The matter was soon thereafter brought to the attention of the President. As to the next step, it can be stated that the President will communicate to Congress that this offer has been received, and that course will be pursued because the administration holds that the canal question is one of legislative determination, and that as Congress has the right to consider the subject it should have possession of all facts that have come to the knowledge of the executive branch.

Canal Commission's Estimates.

The offer as made to the President and later communicated to the Secretary of State makes reference to the estimates of the isthmian commission's report. This feature of the commission's report appears under the caption "Total Value of the Panama Canal," and is as follows: "Summing up the foregoing items, the total value of the Panama Canal, including excavation already done, \$27,474,025; Panama railroad stock at par, \$6,500,000; maps, plans and records, \$2,000,000; to which add 10 per cent to cover contingencies, making the total value of the Panama canal \$40,000,000."

BACACAY TO BE EVACUATED.

Decision of Gen. Grant Causes Protest by Residents.
MANILA, January 4.—General Grant recently decided that, owing to the lack of suitable quarters for troops at Bacacay, and because the place is apparently unhealthful, he would remove the company of soldiers stationed there. The announcement of this decision has caused a protest from all the business men in Manila, and the American and Spanish business men of Bacacay have sent a joint telegram to General Chaffee, asking protection and declaring that it will be impossible for them to remain there should the troops be withdrawn. The Filipino civil authorities are anxious that the troops should go, claiming that the native constabulary afford sufficient protection.

DEATH OF JOSEPH COMBS.

Veteran of Mexican War and Prominent as Attorney.
KANSAS CITY, Mo., January 4.—Joseph Combs, aged eighty-two years, once a conspicuous figure in Missouri politics, a veteran of the Mexican war and at one time a law partner of the late Justice Stephen J. Field of the United States Supreme Court, is dead at his home in Kansas City, Mo. In 1850 Mr. Combs was elected to the Missouri legislature. He enlisted as a volunteer in the Mexican war, and later President Polk awarded him the contract for general clothing for the army with supplies while the war was in progress. He was prominent as a lawyer in California after that state was admitted to the Union.

TO AVOID DISASTERS.

Train Dispatchers Agitating for New System of Signals.
CHICAGO, January 4.—Train dispatchers of the country want all possibility of collisions removed by doing away with the present system of train orders, that can be misinterpreted, and signals that may be unsound. Instead of the old method it is proposed to substitute colored electric lights in the engine cab, signals that always can be seen and never can be misinterpreted.

DRAW AT COLUMBUS

The Foraker Forces Will Organize the Senate.

HANNA MEN GET THE HOUSE

This Seems to Be the Latest Development There.

COL. DICK'S ACTIVITY

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, January 4.—By giving up the senate to Foraker and making all possible combinations in the house, where his forces are concentrated, Senator Hanna seems this morning to have made the legislative organization game a draw. George B. Cox said this morning that the Foraker forces lacked two votes of enough to organize the house. However, Charles L. Kurtz does not yet give it up. It is significant that Jones, one of the Toledo delegates, who declared for the Foraker slate in the house this week, left for home this morning and will not be in the caucus. He said that there was sickness in his family, but the Hanna men say he felt the ground slipping from under him and wanted to get away. Some of the more enthusiastic Hanna men declared this morning that the fight being won by their side in the house, they would now take up the senate situation, and possibly turn defeat into victory there. That is not possible, however. The Foraker slate still has at least thirteen of the twenty-one votes in the senate caucus.

Caucuses This Afternoon.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, January 4.—The republican caucuses for the organization of the Ohio legislature will be held at 2 p.m. today. What are termed "factional caucuses" were held during the night and were continued this forenoon. The Foraker senators formed one caucus and the Hanna senators another, and the same lines were drawn in separate caucuses of the representatives.

Going to Join His Regiment.

Col. J. M. Lee Will Relinquish Duties at Army Headquarters.
Col. J. M. Lee, recently promoted to the command of the 20th Infantry, will shortly relinquish his duties at army headquarters as inspector of small arms practice, in order to join his regiment in the Philippines. All the field officers of that regiment are detached service and the regiment is now in command of Capt. F. A. Wilcox, the senior officer present. In order to remedy this unusual state of affairs, Lieut. Col. Charles B. Hall, 20th Infantry, has been detached from duty at the Military Academy and ordered to proceed to Manila without delay to join his regiment. Colonel Lee's transfer to field duty is entirely voluntary and General Miles has expressed his regret at losing the benefit of his services at Washington. Notwithstanding this he gave his consent to the transfer and personally complimented Col. Lee on his conscientious devotion to what he regarded as his proper field of duty.

DYNAMOS PUT IN.

Interior Department Building to Be Electrically Lighted.

Within two weeks the three buildings of the Interior Department are to be lighted by electricity generated in an independent plant located in the old Post Office Department building. Workmen have been engaged for several months in "wiring" the patent office, the present land office and the pension building, and that work is now about completed. The dynamos and engines are being installed in the rooms formerly occupied by the post office museum, on the ground floor of the old Post Office Department building. Mr. E. M. Dawson, the chief clerk of the department, is in charge of the work. Local electricians were engaged to do the work, and the massive chandelier for the main entrance to the patent office building. It is of brass, handsomely decorated, and provides for about 100 bulbs. The design, which is generally empire in its nature, conforms admirably with the classic architectural features of the whole structure. For the E street building the old antique chandelier has been converted to furnish both gas and electric lights.

Naval Orders.

Assistant Surgeon R. C. Holcomb has been detached from the Cavite station and also from the Helena and ordered home on waiting orders.
Assistant Surgeon E. M. Blackwell, to the Columbia, relieving Assistant Surgeon J. B. Buchanan, who is assigned to the Constellation.

Army Orders.

First Lieutenant Peter C. Field, assistant surgeon, has been relieved from duty at Fort Slocum, N. Y., and ordered to duty at Fort Robinson, Neb., relieving Contract Surgeon Albert H. Simonton, who is ordered to Birmingham, Ala., for annulment of contract.
Major William R. Abercrombie, 30th Infantry, has been granted leave of absence for three months.

Lieutenant Colonel Morris C. Foote, 9th Infantry, has been assigned temporarily to duty in the department at California.

Meals for Army Nurses.

A general order has been issued by Lieutenant General Miles amending the army regulations so as to provide that nurses shall be provided with meals free of charge while on duty. The order also provides that traveling under orders shall be allowed reimbursement for necessary expenses not to exceed \$3 per day in addition to transportation.

Admiral Cromwell Sails.

Rear Admiral B. J. Cromwell, commanding the European station, leaves New York today on the Furst Bismarck for his post. Admiral Cromwell, it is stated, will leave the European station on his retirement, February 9 next, and will return to the United States by passenger steamer, leaving the senior officer of the squadron in charge until the arrival of Rear Admiral C. W. Meade, who is expected to arrive at the station some time in March.

Middletown, N. Y., Post Office Burned.

The postmaster at Middletown, N. Y., has telegraphed the first assistant postmaster general that the Middletown office was burned out last night. The office is now in temporary quarters in the next block. Middletown is an important second-class office, the postmaster's salary being \$7,700.

THE BAN RIGH LANDS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Revolutionary Forces Believed to Be at Barcelona.

VENEZUELA IN BAD PREDICAMENT

Government Without Funds to Purchase War Material.

SOME OF TODAY'S CALLERS

Gov. Leslie M. Shaw of Iowa, who will become Secretary of the Treasury before the end of January, took lunch with President Roosevelt today. He was at the White House for a talk with the President last night and called again this morning with Secretary Gage, with whom he had held a conference of an hour or more regarding the movement of the treasury, the conditions of the treasury and some of the officials of that department.

Not Prepared to Talk.

On going away from the White House Gov. Shaw said: "I am not prepared to talk on financial subjects. I am not yet giving consideration to changes of any kind in the treasury, and in fact, that there is little prospect that there will be any."

Will Recast Party Lines

LIVELY TIMES EXPECTED IN NEXT BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

Radical Changes Likely to Be Made in Procedure—Buller's Case to Come Up.

LONDON, January 4.—When King Edward opens parliament January 16, which will be an occasion of even greater pomp and circumstance than was his last appearance in the house of lords, the most interesting sessions of recent years will be begun. Before its conclusion the whole status of the liberal party is likely to be altered and Lord Rosebery's future determined. Present indications point to a split which no middle-road pronouncements can heal, and in which Sir Edward Grey, H. H. Asquith, Sir H. F. Fowler, R. W. Perks, K. B. Haldane and other imperialists, together with a few unionists, will flock to Lord Rosebery's standard and initiate an organization with the hope of securing control of all the liberal elements prior to the next general election. Temporarily this diversion of the opposition will greatly facilitate the government's program, the chief item of which is a sweeping reform of parliamentary procedure.

The Case of Col. Nunn.

Representative Brownlow of Tennessee has made trouble for himself by his course in the case of Col. David A. Nunn, whose resignation as collector of internal revenue of the fifth Tennessee district was recently tendered to President Roosevelt after request had been made for it. Announcement was made that the resignation was brought about by the fact that Col. Nunn had been employed in the United States Congress by either be adopted or given a trial in motion for his removal.

Mr. Taylor to Hold His Place.

Assistant Secretary H. A. Taylor of the Treasury Department will retain his position under the incoming Secretary of the Treasury, Governor Shaw of Iowa. This has been decided upon by President Roosevelt after consultation with influential friends of Mr. Taylor, who has for some time been regarded as a favorite of the President with the politics of Wisconsin. The matter will be submitted to Secretary Shaw, but it is understood that Mr. Taylor's retention will be agreeable to him.

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MUST PAY TAX.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Sustained by Attorney General.

Attorney General Knox has given an opinion in which he holds that the certificates of stock amounting to \$25,000,000 proposed to be deposited by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company with the Girard Trust Company, trustee, as security for certain bonds, pledged as collateral on time or call loans must be stamped. Operators on the leading stock exchanges of the country have vigorously opposed this view of the law.

Post Office Department Changes.

Howard Buckler of Baltimore, Md., formerly chief clerk to the third assistant postmaster general, has been appointed chief clerk of the finance division of the Post Office Department. Harwood M. Bacon of Detroit, Mich., has been appointed chief clerk to succeed Mr. Buckler.

Lieut. Bull Recommended for Retirement.

Lieut. Commander James H. Bull, recently in charge of the branch hydrographic office at Buffalo, has been recommended for retirement, on account of injuries sustained by falling from the dome of the government building at the Buffalo exposition.

Virginia Postmaster Appointed.

John R. Woods today was appointed postmaster at Birdwood, Va.

HOPE FOR THE RAFTS

Revenue Cutter Cruising for the Wreck of the Walla Walla.

TEN KNOWN TO HAVE PERISHED

There Are, Besides These, Thirty-six Unaccounted For.

RESCUED HAD HARD TIME

SAFETY OF THE RAFTS.

SAFETY OF THE RAFTS. The following is the most complete list obtainable of the passengers, officers and crew of the wrecked steamer Walla Walla, which was run into and sunk by an unknown French bark off Cape Mendocino early Thursday morning. The most conservative statement places the number of dead at ten and the missing at thirty-six. Another estimate is that at least seventy-three persons are yet unaccounted for. Those believed to be dead are: Mr. Herman Kotschmar, wife of Lieut. Kotschmar; Mrs. M. Reynolds, stewardess; Mrs. H. Erickson and three children, Louis Druby of San Francisco, E. L. Nuttman, purser; William Bertel, fireman; John Wilson, also known as Hans P. Anderson, quartermaster.

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Two Rafts Adrift on the Ocean.

There are still on the ocean, so far as known, two rafts. If either of these have been picked up the number of supposed victims will be materially decreased. Sixty-two of the passengers and crew were picked up and landed at Eureka by the steamship Dispatch; twenty-three survivors drifted ashore near Trinidad, and seven others were rescued by the tug Francis. Captain Hall, who went down with the vessel, but came to the surface and was saved, thinks that some of the missing may yet be heard from.

The fact that the bark which caused the disaster did not stand by to aid the Walla Walla indicates to seafaring men that she must have been a pirate.

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MITIGATION OF PUNISHMENT.

Army Regulations Amended by Gen. Miles.

General Miles, amending the army regulations, has amended the army regulations so as to provide that the power to pardon or mitigate punishment imposed by a court-martial, vested in the authority which confirms the proceedings and the corresponding authority under whose jurisdiction the sentence is being executed, extends only to the unexecuted portions of a sentence. An appeal for clemency in the case of a general prisoner sentenced to confinement in a penitentiary must be forwarded to the Secretary of War for the action of the President. General Miles says that the power to pardon or mitigate punishment imposed by military tribunals, not being vested in military commanders, can be exercised only by the President.

TO OBEY REGULATIONS.

Requirement to Be Followed Until It Is Repealed.

The adjutant general of the army was recently asked by G. A. Brooke, commanding the Department of the East, to reconcile an apparent conflict between two regulations which require an enlisted man absent without leave to make good the time lost, and an opinion of the judge advocate general rendered in 1901 to the effect that such a requirement is illegal. The issue affects certain enlisted men in Gen. Brooke's department who are to be discharged. In his reply to Gen. Brooke, the adjutant general admits that there is doubt as to the legality of the practice, but as the regulations providing for the making good of lost time have been repeated several times in army regulations, it should, he says, be taken as a decision of the department that such requirement is legal, and it should be followed until changed by proper authority.

EMPLOYEES GIVEN FURLONGS.

Scarcity of Funds Reduces Force at the Navy Yard.

Owing to the scarcity of funds, it has been found necessary to furlough a number of employees, including apprentices, at the Washington gun factory. The draft of armor and ordnance for the current fiscal year have been so heavy that it will be necessary to ask for a deficiency appropriation of about \$4,000,000. It is said it will be all the armor, guns and labor during the remainder of the present fiscal year.

Information has reached here from the Philippines that Capt. George W. Kirkman, 25th Infantry, who was arrested on charges made by local merchants, has been released from custody and will return to the United States. General Chaffee, commanding the Division of the Philippines, did not consider the circumstances upon which the charges were based as justifying his detention in the Philippines.

Designated as a Public Depository.

The National Exchange Bank of Wheeling, W. Va., has been designated by the Secretary of the Treasury as a depository of public moneys, and especially funds advanced to officers of the War Department.

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